

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 ACDA-12 EUR-12 AF-10 /108 W
-----004489 161509Z /50

R 160740Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3011
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH, RP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF CHINESE VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS MARCH 16 IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF CHINESE VICE PREMIER LI UHSIEN-NIEN, I
ASKED PRESIDENT WHETHER UNITED STATES HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE.

2. MARCOS SAID VICE PREMIER ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS
RAISED QUESTION OF DETERMINATION OF UNITED STATES IN FACE OF
SOVIET EFFORTS, REFERRING PARTICULARLY TO SITUATION IN HORN
OF AFRICA. MARCOS SAID HE DEFENDED UNITED STATES, POINTING
OUT MANY FACTORS WHICH HAD TO GO INTO AMERICAN POLICY IN
CONSIDERING RESPONSES IN ANY GIVEN PART OF WORLD.

3. MARCOS SOUGHT TO DRAW VICE PREMIER OUT ON QUESTION OF
U.S. BASES IN PHILIPPINES. LI ASKED WHETHER BASES WOULD EVER
BE USED TO ATTACK CHINA. MARCOS ASSURED HIM THAT PHILIPPINES
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WOULD NEVER PERMIT THIS. LI WOULD NOT COMMENT FURTHER ON
BASES.

4. ON JAPAN, LI ASKED MARCOS WHETHER HE WAS CONFIDENT UNITED
STATES WOULD STAND BY JAPAN'S SECURITY. MARCOS REPLIED
THAT HE WAS.

5. MARCOS SAID TWO PRINCIPAL THEMES OF LI IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM WERE SUSPICIONS OF VIETNAMESE (THIS CAME UP IN CONNECTION WITH SPRATLEY ISLANDS) AND REITERATION THAT CHINA WOULD NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ASEAN COUNTRIES.

6. MARCOS SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENT TO BE UNDERSTANDING WITH CHINA ON SPRATLEYS. (MARCOS PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO AGREEMENT THAT ANY DISPUTE IN SPRATLEYS WILL BE SETTLED BY POSITIVE MEANS.)

7. I ASKED MARCOS WHETHER CHINESE HAD SPOKEN OF ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN ASIA. (WE HAD HEARD FROM INDONESIAN EMBASSY THAT LI MIGHT RAISE WITH MARCOS POSSIBILITY OF ORIGINATING ASIAN UNITY CONFERENCE.) MARCOS SAID THAT HE HAD IMPRESSION THAT CHINESE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE WAS STILL NOT FULLY RESOLVED AND THAT THIS PRECLUDED ANY DRAMATIC INITIATIVES ON CHINA'S PART.
NEWSOM

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Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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